



H.Res. 966 – Honoring African American inventors, past and present, for their leadership, courage, and significant contributions to our national competitiveness

FLOOR SITUATION

H.Res. 966 is being considered on the floor under suspension of the rules and will require a two-thirds majority vote for passage. This legislation was introduced by Representative Eddie Bernice Johnson (D-TX) on February 7, 2008. The resolution was referred to the House Committee on Science and Technology on February 7, 2008, but was never considered.

H.Res. 966 is expected to be considered on the floor of the House on February 13, 2008.

SUMMARY

H.Res. 966 resolves that the House of Representatives:

- Recognizes and appreciates the significant achievements to our national research enterprise made by African-American and other minority scientists, technologists, engineers, and mathematicians;
- Honors and extends its appreciation and gratitude toward all African-American inventors, for the significant and honorable research and educational contributions that improve the lives of all citizens and that have gone unacknowledged too long; and
- Looks for opportunities to make sure that the creativity and contribution of minority scientists, technologists, engineers, and mathematicians can be expressed through research, development, standardization, and innovation.

BACKGROUND

The National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE) was formed in 1974 by Anthony Harris, Brian Harris, Stanley L. Kirtley, John W. Logan, Jr., Edward A. Coleman, and George A. Smith. The NSBE was originally formed as the Black Society of Engineers (BSE), by Purdue undergraduate students Edward Barnette and Fred Cooper in 1971. Today, the NSBE has about 20,000 members and hosts an Annual National Convention with over 8,000 attendees.

Historic African-American engineers and scientists include Garrett Augustus Morgan, who developed safety helmets and gas masks worn by firefighters, as well as a traffic signaling system which served as the precursor to modern traffic signals. Archibald Alphonso Alexander was an African-American construction engineer, whose engineering achievements include the design of Washington, DC's Tidal Basin and Whitehurst Freeway.

STAFF CONTACT

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